

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink, which comprises:

irradiating a linear laser beam onto a surface of a foam layer created on a malt alcoholic drink;

imaging a laser line reflected on the surface of the foam layer by an imaging device to obtain an image of the laser line; and

obtaining edge information of the laser line from the image of the laser line to calculate a particle diameter of foam in the foam layer based on the edge information.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the linear laser beam is obliquely irradiated onto the surface of the foam layer, and

the laser line is imaged from a position in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the foam layer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink, which comprises:

a laser light source that irradiates a linear laser beam onto a surface of a foam layer created on a malt alcoholic drink;

an imaging device that images a laser line reflected on the surface of the foam layer to obtain an image of the laser line; and

a calculating device that obtains edge information of the laser line from the image of the laser line to calculate a particle diameter of foam in the foam layer based on the edge information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink as claimed in claim 1, wherein said edge information comprises information which determines a concavity and convexity of foam particles on edge portions of said laser line ~~so as to determine the particle diameter of the foam particles and the number of foam particles~~ so as to allow the particle diameter of the foam particles to be determined.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~[[An]]~~ The apparatus for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink as claimed in claim 3, wherein said edge information comprises information which determines a concavity and convexity of foam particles on edge portions of said laser line ~~so as to determine the particle diameter of the foam particles and the number of foam particles~~ so as to allow the particle diameter of the foam particles to be determined.